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16 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
17 **FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA**
18 **SOUTHERN DIVISION**

No. ____:____-CV-____-____

19 BRUNSWICK COUNTY, a governmental)
entity;)

20 Plaintiff,)

21 v.)

22 DOWDUPONT, INC., a Delaware)

23 corporation; E.I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS)

AND COMPANY, a business entity form)

24 unknown; THE CHEMOURS COMPANY, a)

Delaware corporation; THE CHEMOURS)

25 COMPANY FC, LLC, a Delaware limited)

26 liability company, and DOES 1 to 25,)

27 Defendants.)
28

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

1 *“A river is the report card for its watershed.”*

2 *– Alan Levere, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection*

3 Plaintiff BRUNSWICK COUNTY hereby alleges, upon information and belief, as follows:

4 **I. INTRODUCTION**

5 1. The events giving rise to this Complaint represent the latest installment in a decades-long
6 history of E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company’s discharges of toxic substances into the Cape
7 Fear River with blatant disregard for the effects on consumers downstream. As has been widely
8 reported, Du Pont, and its successor Chemours, used the River as the dumping ground for
9 countless chemicals while assuring the EPA and state agencies that they were doing no such
10 thing. As a public water provider that depends upon the Cape Fear River, Brunswick County has
11 suffered extensive property damage to its water supply, raw water, water treatment system, and
12 water distribution system. The County sues to recover the costs of removing these chemicals
13 from drinking water before it is served to the public.

14 2. DuPont in fact has a long history of toxic chemical liabilities arising from perfluoroalkyl
15 substances (PFASs) such as the biopersistent, bioaccumulative, toxic chemical PFOA¹ also
16 known as “C8.”² DuPont began using C8 in 1951 to make consumer products including the
17 immensely popular Teflon® non-stick cookware and continued to use it profitably for decades.
18 When DuPont’s supplier, the 3M Company, came under increasing scrutiny from the United
19 States Environmental Protection Agency and decided to stop making C8, DuPont began
20 producing C8 at the Fayetteville Works facility on the Cape Fear River in North Carolina,
21 assuring regulators and the public that all C8 wastewater would be contained and disposed of
22 elsewhere, and that C8 presented no threat to human health or the environment. Only when
23 residents near DuPont’s manufacturing plant in Parkersburg, West Virginia began to pursue
24 litigation over DuPont’s contamination of the Ohio River with C8 did evidence begin to emerge
25 of DuPont’s internal knowledge of C8’s health hazards, which DuPont had concealed from the

26 ¹ Perfluorooctonic acid, CAS No. 335-67-1.

27 ² “C8” refers to the eight-carbon chain in the perfluorinated molecule of PFOA. The term “C8” also
28 includes the ammonium salt of PFOA, known as “APFO”, which is dissolved by water into PFOA and
ammonium.

1 E.P.A. Mounting evidence, thousands of civil lawsuits, epidemiological studies, and federal
2 agency pressure—including the largest environmental administrative penalty ever imposed by
3 the E.P.A.—eventually forced DuPont to begin phasing out C8 in 2006.

4 3. To keep producing its highly profitable fluoroproducts, DuPont turned to an alternative
5 perfluorinated chemical—dubbed “Gen X”—which DuPont also planned to manufacture at the
6 Fayetteville Works facility. To obtain the necessary approvals and permits, DuPont assured state
7 and federal regulators that Gen X would not be released into groundwater—even though DuPont
8 knew that it had secretly been releasing Gen X into the Cape Fear River since at least 1980 (and
9 planned to continue doing so). DuPont understood that regulators were very concerned about the
10 hazards of perfluorinated chemicals such as C8 and Gen X, and had data from its own studies to
11 demonstrate Gen X’s toxicity in animals, but remained silent about its ongoing contamination of
12 the drinking water supply for hundreds of thousands of North Carolinians. Instead, in a familiar
13 refrain, DuPont maintained that Gen X presented no threats to human health or the environment.
14 DuPont’s repugnant act of deception worked, and in 2009, commercial production of Gen X
15 began at the Fayetteville Works, where DuPont also continued to manufacture C8 until at least
16 2013.

17 4. Meanwhile, by 2011, DuPont could no longer credibly deny the toxicity of C8 because an
18 independent scientific panel created to help settle a class action over DuPont’s Ohio River
19 contamination had begun to release a series of reports linking C8 exposure to various serious
20 health effects in humans. Facing thousands of pending personal injury lawsuits, DuPont became
21 desperate to spin off its C8 liabilities. By mid- 2015, DuPont had dumped its perfluorinated
22 chemical liabilities into the lap of a new and apparently undercapitalized entity, Defendant
23 Chemours Company, which *Fortune* magazine described as “[l]oaded up with debt and stuffed
24 full of potentially toxic assets...[and] seen by many investors as a listing garbage scow locked on
25 a one-way course to the bottom of the ocean” due to the C8 liability that “now sits on its balance
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1 sheet like a ticking time bomb.”³ By 2017, over 3,500 civil lawsuits had been filed against
2 DuPont for C8 contamination of the Ohio River and the drinking water of nearly 70,000
3 residents in and around Parkersburg, West Virginia. All told, DuPont and Chemours will pay
4 over \$1 billion to resolve the C8 liabilities related to Ohio River contamination.

5 5. As a result of the 2015 spin-off, Chemours now owns the Fayetteville Works facility,
6 where it continues to lease manufacturing space to DuPont and to produce a variety of products
7 including Gen X. In November 2016, environmental scientists published the results of water
8 testing that showed high levels of Gen X in the Cape Fear River downstream of the Fayetteville
9 Works, at the intake for the raw water that is used to generate drinking water for thousands of
10 North Carolinians in a five-county area. Worse, their results showed that conventional water
11 treatment technologies do not effectively remove such chemicals from drinking water.

12 Confronted by state regulators, Chemours finally admitted that DuPont had been releasing Gen X
13 into the Cape Fear River since at least 1980—a fact long concealed from the State of North
14 Carolina. Sampling along the Cape Fear River confirms that Defendants have been
15 contaminating the Cape Fear River and the public drinking water systems that draw from the
16 river downstream of the Fayetteville Works facility with a variety of undisclosed byproducts—
17 including Nafion® Byproducts 1 and 2 (“C7”)⁴, Gen X (“C6”), and other perfluoroalkyl
18 substances known as PFECAs (perfluoroalkyl ether carboxylic acids)—through wastewater,
19 groundwater, and/or air deposition. Contamination of the Cape Fear River with Gen X alone has
20 well exceeded North Carolina’s temporary health standard and has repeatedly been found at
21 levels considered to be unsafe. And Gen X is only *one* of the PFASs that Defendants have
22 knowingly released into the region’s public drinking water supply for decades. DuPont (and
23 now Chemours) uses PFASs to manufacture a wide range of products, resulting in the production
24 of hundreds (if not thousands) of different PFAS chemicals—and the identity of the PFASs that
25 enter the environment due to this process remains unknown to regulators and the public. While
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27 ³ <http://fortune.com/2016/05/18/how-dupont-spinoff-chemours-came-back-from-the-brink/>

28 ⁴ “C6” and “C7” refer to the number of carbons in the perfluorinated molecules.

1 public attention has focused on C8, and now Gen X, these discharges merely scratch the surface
2 of what may be contained in the rivers and waterways Defendants have been polluting.

3 6. Luckily for the communities affected, Chemours vows to handle its toxic liabilities
4 differently than DuPont. Chemours' Code of Conduct: A Guide to Our Values explains that
5 "Unshakeable Integrity" is one of Chemours' five values. Chemours' Code of Conduct vows to
6 "do what's right for customers, colleagues, and communities—always."⁵ Chemours' Code of
7 Conduct explains "our values are simple yet powerful, and our focus on delivering efficiency and
8 results for our customers never overshadows our commitment to ethical behavior in all we do.
9 When we do what's right for our people, customers, shareholders, and communities, success will
10 follow."⁶

11 7. Mark Newman, Chemours' Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer says
12 "Whether it's about being open and clear about our performance or our stewardship practices,
13 our goal is to be brave and do the right thing, always."⁷ Paul Kirsch, Chemours' Fluoroproducts
14 President says, "When we do what's right for our customers, shareholders, and communities, we
15 are confident success will follow."⁸

16 8. *For nearly forty years*, Defendants have been secretly releasing their persistent,
17 bioaccumulative, and toxic perfluorinated chemicals into the Cape Fear River at unsafe levels
18 and contaminating the drinking water source for hundreds of thousands of North Carolinians—
19 just as they did in the Ohio River—all the while misleading state and Federal regulators and the
20 public. Plaintiff Brunswick County is a community public water supplier that serves thousands of
21 North Carolina residents whose public drinking water supply has been contaminated by
22 Defendants' PFASs for decades. By this lawsuit, Plaintiff hopes to hold Chemours to its
23 promises. In particular, Plaintiff seeks to recover the costs—past, present, and future—necessary
24

25 ⁵ Chemours' *Code of Conduct: A Guide to Our Values*
26 https://s2.q4cdn.com/107142371/files/doc_downloads/governance/2017/code-of-conduct-en-us.pdf

27 ⁶ *Id.*

28 ⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*

1 to manage and remove Defendants' perfluorinated chemicals from its public drinking water
2 supply.

3 **II. PARTIES**

4 9. Plaintiff BRUNSWICK COUNTY ("Brunswick") is a governmental entity formed under
5 the laws of the State of North Carolina, maintaining its seat in Bolivia, North Carolina. Plaintiff
6 Brunswick County purchases raw water pumped from an intake on the Cape Fear River. The
7 County then treats that water at its Northwest Water Treatment Plant before supplying it as
8 finished drinking water to the public.

9 10. Defendant DOWDUPONT, INC. ("DowDuPont") is a Delaware corporation with two
10 principal places of business, including in Midland, Michigan and Wilmington, Delaware.

11 11. Defendant E.I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS AND COMPANY ("DuPont") is or was a
12 Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in Wilmington, Delaware, and is
13 registered to do business as a foreign corporation in the State of North Carolina. DuPont owned
14 and operated the Fayetteville Works facility from approximately 1971 until 2015 and currently
15 leases a portion of the site from Defendant Chemours Company FC, LLC. As of August 31,
16 2017, a \$130 billion merger between Dow Chemical and DuPont was completed. Plaintiff is
17 unaware what, if anything, remains of DuPont outside of the merger with Dow Chemical.

18 12. Defendant THE CHEMOURS COMPANY is a Delaware corporation with its principal
19 place of business in Wilmington, Delaware, and is registered to do business as a foreign
20 corporation in the State of North Carolina.

21 13. Defendant THE CHEMOURS COMPANY FC, LLC is a Delaware limited liability
22 corporation with its principal place of business in Wilmington, Delaware, and is registered to do
23 business as a foreign corporation in the State of North Carolina. THE CHEMOURS COMPANY
24 FC, LLC currently owns and operates the Fayetteville Works Facility, located at 22828 NC
25 Highway 87 W., Fayetteville, North Carolina. THE CHEMOURS COMPANY FC, LLC is a
26 subsidiary of THE CHEMOURS COMPANY and the two entities are referred to in this
27 Complaint as "Chemours."
28

1 **III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

2 14. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1332 because complete diversity exists
3 between the Plaintiff and the Defendants. The Plaintiff is located in North Carolina, but no
4 Defendant is a citizen of North Carolina. Defendants are incorporated and maintain principal
5 places of business in locations other than North Carolina, as outlined above.

6 15. Venue is appropriate in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391(a) because a
7 substantial part of the property that is the subject of the action is situated in this judicial district
8 and division.

9 **IV. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

10 **a. Historical Background**

11 16. From 1951 through 2002, DuPont purchased the perfluorinated chemical PFOA (also
12 known as “C8”) from the 3M Company and used it to make a variety of “fluoroproducts,”
13 including the immensely-popular Teflon® nonstick cookware, at its Washington Works plant
14 near Parkersburg, West Virginia.

15 17. C8 is a perfluorinated chemical that is toxic to human health, biopersistent, and
16 bioaccumulative—characteristics DuPont concealed for decades.

17 18. Although both 3M and DuPont had found C8 in blood samples from their own
18 employees, and DuPont had itself been studying its potential toxicity since at least the 1960s and
19 knew that it was contaminating drinking water drawn from the Ohio River, neither company
20 disclosed to the public or to government regulators what they knew about the substance’s
21 potential effects on humans, animals, or the environment.⁹

22 19. In 1999, the first of thousands of civil lawsuits was filed as a result of DuPont’s
23 contamination of the Ohio River, questioning the environmental and health effects of C8. The
24 civil lawsuit—and the internal corporate knowledge it revealed—triggered an investigation by
25 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency of the toxicity of C8.

26 _____
27 ⁹ See, e.g., Fred Biddle, “DuPont confronted over chemical’s safety,” *Wilmington News Journal* (Apr. 13,
28 2003).

1 20. In the face of growing pressure by the Environmental Protection Agency over widespread
2 risks to human health and the environment posed by C8, 3M began to phase out the
3 manufacturing of C8 in 2000. That year, DuPont made an estimated \$200 million in after-tax
4 profits from products manufactured with C8.¹⁰

5 21. In May 2002, 3M announced that it would cease to manufacture C8 altogether. In
6 October 2002—so that it could continue manufacturing a range of profitable Teflon® products—
7 DuPont began making C8 at its Fayetteville Works facility—upstream of Plaintiff’s
8 community—and shipping its C8 waste to its Chambers Works plant in New Jersey, for disposal
9 into the waters of the Delaware River and Delaware Bay. DuPont publicly maintained that
10 disposing of C8 into the waters there posed no environmental risks, and that there was “no
11 evidence” C8 causes adverse human health effects.¹¹

12 22. By December 2005, the E.P.A. uncovered evidence that DuPont concealed the
13 environmental and health effects of C8, and the E.P.A. announced the “Largest Environmental
14 Administrative Penalty in Agency History.”¹² The E.P.A. fined DuPont for violating the Toxic
15 Substances Control Act “Section 8(e)—the requirement that companies report to the E.P.A.
16 substantial risk information about chemicals they manufacture, process or distribute in
17 commerce.”¹³

18 23. Thereafter in 2006, the E.P.A. began a voluntary PFOA Stewardship Program, in which
19 DuPont participated, designed to prevent C8 from further entering the environment and to
20 eliminate C8 from consumer products by 2015. At that time, DuPont identified another
21 perfluorinated chemical—PFPrOPrA¹⁴ or “Gen X”—that could be used as an alternative to C8.

22 24. By 2009, DuPont negotiated with the E.P.A. to manufacture Gen X at DuPont’s
23 Fayetteville Works facility in North Carolina—the same plant where DuPont had continued the
24

25 ¹⁰ See Biddle, *supra* note 9.

26 ¹¹ See Biddle, *supra* note 9.

27 ¹² \$16.5 million.

28 ¹³ <https://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/68b5f2d54f3eefd28525701500517fbf/fdcb2f665cac66bb852570d7005d6665!opendocument>

¹⁴ Perfluoro-2-propoxypropanoic acid, CAS No. 13252-13-6.

1 manufacture of C8 despite incriminating evidence of C8's environmental and health effects. The
2 E.P.A. "determined that the chemical could be commercialized *if there were no releases to*
3 *water*."¹⁵

4 25. Meanwhile, by July 2011, DuPont could no longer credibly dispute the human toxicity of
5 C8, which it continued to manufacture at the Fayetteville Works facility. The "C8 Science Panel"
6 created as part of the settlement of a class action over DuPont's releases from the Washington
7 Works plant had reviewed the available scientific evidence and notified DuPont of a "probable
8 link"¹⁶ between C8 exposure and the serious (and potentially fatal) conditions of pregnancy-
9 induced hypertension and preeclampsia.¹⁷ By October 2012, the C8 Science Panel had notified
10 DuPont of a probable link between C8 and five other conditions—high cholesterol, kidney
11 cancer, thyroid disease, testicular cancer, and ulcerative colitis.

12 26. By April 28, 2013,¹⁸ in accordance with E.P.A.'s PFOA Stewardship Program,
13 Defendants had phased out the intentional manufacture of C8 at the Fayetteville Works facility,
14 instead manufacturing "Gen X" as an alternative product to use in making Teflon®.

15 27. As DuPont's C8 liabilities mounted, DuPont became desperate to reduce its
16 perfluorinated chemical liabilities and decided to spin-off its perfluorinated chemical operations
17 into a new company. In July 2015, E.I. du Pont de Nemours spun off its *chemicals* division,
18 creating *Chemours*, a new publicly-traded company named The Chemours Company, once
19 wholly owned by DuPont. By mid- 2015, DuPont had dumped its perfluorinated chemical
20 liabilities into the lap of the new Chemours Company.

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23 ¹⁵ Vaughn Haugherty, "Toxin taints CFPWA drinking water," *StarNews* (June 8, 2017),
<http://www.starnewsonline.com/news/20170607/toxin-taints-cfpua-drinking-water/1> (emph. added).

24 ¹⁶ Under the settlement, "probable link," means that given the available scientific evidence, it is more
25 likely than not that among class members a connection exists between PFOA/C8 exposure and a
particular human disease.

26 ¹⁷ See The C8 Science Panel, *Status Report: PFOA (C8) exposure and pregnancy outcome among*
participants in the C8 Health Project (July 15, 2011),
http://www.c8sciencepanel.org/pdfs/Status_Report_C8_and_pregnancy_outcome_15July2011.pdf.

27 ¹⁸ See "Corrective Measures Study Work Plan," Chemours Fayetteville Works, RCRA Permit No.
NCD047368642-R2-M3, PARSONS, December 2016 (hereinafter, "Parsons").
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1 28. In May 2016, *Fortune* magazine wrote, “When industrial giant DuPont spun off its
2 performance chemicals division in July 2015, few gave the orphaned appendage much hope.
3 Loaded up with debt and stuffed full of potentially toxic assets—on multiple levels—the new
4 company, re-branded as Chemours, was seen by many investors as a listing garbage scow locked
5 on a one-way course to the bottom of the ocean.” “So while Chemours products made up around
6 a fifth of DuPont’s overall sales when it was spun off, it ended up inheriting nearly two-thirds of
7 its environmental liabilities. Pending lawsuits linked to a chemical used in making Teflon, one of
8 Chemours’ biggest products, now sits on its balance sheet like a ticking time bomb, threatening
9 to wipe out millions of dollars from the company’s coffers over the next few years.”¹⁹

10 29. By 2017, over 3,500 civil lawsuits had been filed against DuPont for C8 contamination of
11 the Ohio River and the drinking water of nearly 70,000 residents in and around Parkersburg,
12 West Virginia. DuPont had settled the first round of civil cases for nearly \$350 million in 2001,
13 resolving water filtration claims, and funding epidemiological health studies of the nearly 70,000
14 residents. Then, in February 2017, DuPont and Chemours settled the second round of cases for
15 nearly \$671 million, resolving thousands of personal injury claims for exposure to C8 via
16 drinking water drawn from the contaminated Ohio River. All told, DuPont and Chemours will
17 pay over \$1 billion to resolve the C8 liabilities related to Ohio River contamination.

18 30. As of 2017, and as a result of the 2015 Chemours spin-off, Defendant Chemours
19 Company FC, LLC, now owns and operates the Fayetteville Works facility, leasing space to two
20 other chemical manufacturers, Defendant DuPont/DowDuPont, Inc. and non-party Kuraray
21 America, Inc.

22 31. At the Fayetteville Works facility, DuPont and Chemours have long made, used, and/or
23 generated a variety of toxic perfluoroalkyl substances that are structurally and functionally
24 similar, including C8, Gen X (“C6”), Nafion Byproducts 1 and 2 (“C7”)²⁰, and other
25 perfluorinated chemicals known as PFECAs (perfluoroalkyl ether carboxylic acids).

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27 ¹⁹ <http://fortune.com/2016/05/18/how-dupont-spinoff-chemours-came-back-from-the-brink/>

28 ²⁰ “C6” and “C7” refer to the number of carbons in the perfluorinated molecules.

1 **a. The Fayetteville Works Site**

2 32. The Fayetteville Works facility (“the Site”) is located at 22828 NC Highway 87 W, near
3 Duarte Township in Bladen County, North Carolina. The Site is located 15 miles southeast of the
4 City of Fayetteville on NC Highway 87, south of the Bladen-Cumberland county line. Its
5 geographic location is 34°50’30” north latitude, 78°50’00” west longitude. The Site contains
6 2,177 acres of relatively flat undeveloped open land and woodland bounded on the east by the
7 Cape Fear River, on the west by NC Highway 87, and on the north and south by farmland.²¹

8 33. DuPont purchased the Site property in parcels from several families in 1970. The Site’s
9 first manufacturing area was constructed in the early 1970s. Currently, the Site manufactures
10 plastic sheeting, safety glass, fluorochemicals, and intermediates for plastics manufacturing. A
11 former manufacturing area, which was sold in 1992, produced nylon strapping and elastometric
12 tape.²²

13 34. In July 2015, Defendant Chemours Company FC, LLC, became the owner of the entire
14 2,177 acres of the Fayetteville Works along with Fluoromonomers, Nafion® membranes, and
15 PPA manufacturing units. The polyvinyl fluoride (PVF) resin manufacturing unit remained with
16 the DuPont Company.²³

17 35. Defendants’ manufacturing operations at the Site²⁴ consist of three current perfluorinated
18 chemical (“PFC”) manufacturing areas and a former manufacturing area.²⁵

19 a. Chemours Fluoromonomers and Nafion® Membrane - Manufactures Nafion®
20 fluoropolymer membrane—a perfluorosulfonic acid (PFSA) membrane—for use in electronic
21 cells, as well as various fluorochemicals used for Nafion® membrane, Teflon® fluoropolymer,
22 Viton® elastomers, and other fluorinated products.

23
24 _____
²¹ Parsons, *supra* note 18.

25 ²² *Id.*

26 ²³ *Id.*

27 ²⁴ In two additional manufacturing areas at the Fayetteville Works, Kuraray America manufactures
Butacite polyvinyl butyral sheeting and resin, and SentryGlass-branded safety glass products, but upon
information and belief does not use or generate the polyfluorinated chemicals at issue.

28 ²⁵ *Id.*

1 b. Chemours Polymer Processing Aid (PPA) - Manufactures a fluorochemical that is
2 used as a processing aid for off-site fluoropolymer manufacturing—upon information and belief,
3 the product known as “GenX.” This area formerly manufactured ammonium perfluorooctanoate
4 (APFO, the ammonium salt of PFOA, which is also known as “C8”). Chemours publicly
5 maintains that the last date of C8 production at the Site was April 28, 2013, and that the C8
6 manufactured in this area was never used in any of the other manufacturing facilities at the Site.

7 c. DuPont Company PVF - Manufacturers polyvinyl fluoride (PVF) resin used to
8 produce Tedlar® film.

9 d. The Polymer Manufacturing Development Facility (PMDf) - Manufactured
10 Teflon® fluorinated ethylene propylene (FEP) for electrical wiring insulation and other
11 applications. Since the PMDF unit was permanently shut down in June 2009, it no longer
12 manufactures DuPont Teflon®. Chemours publicly maintains that the site did not use C8 in its
13 processes.

14 36. In addition to the manufacturing operations at the Site, Chemours operates two natural
15 gas-fired boilers and a wastewater treatment plant for the treatment of process and sanitary
16 wastewaters from Chemours and DuPont. Hazardous wastes generated from the Chemours’
17 manufacturing processes and laboratories were, as of 2016, managed at the permitted Hazardous
18 Waste Container Storage Area, in four permitted hazardous waste tanks, and at the 90-day
19 ignitable waste accumulation area prior to being shipped offsite for treatment, disposal, or
20 recycling.²⁶

21 37. The Cape Fear River is located along the eastern property boundary of the Site,
22 approximately 1,850 feet from the eastern portion of the manufacturing area. Willis Creek, a
23 tributary of the Cape Fear River, is located in the northern portion of the Site, approximately
24 3,000 feet from the manufacturing area. Portions of the Georgia Branch, another tributary to the
25 Cape Fear River, flow along the southern boundary of the Site approximately 1 mile southwest
26

27 ²⁶ *Id.*
28

1 of the manufacturing area. A drainage channel leading to the Cape Fear River is located just
2 south of the plant area and is used as the outfall area (“Outfall 2”) covered by National Pollutant
3 Discharge Elimination System Permit No. NC003573 (the “NPDES Permit”).²⁷

4 38. Underneath the Site, groundwater flow is generally west-southwest to east-northeast,
5 discharging into the Cape Fear River. This groundwater travels at a rate of 217 feet per year,
6 resulting in an estimated travel time of approximately 15.5 years from the Chemours Polymer
7 Processing Aid area (where Defendants manufactured C8 and later Gen X) to the Cape Fear
8 River.²⁸

9 39. Upon information and belief, the Site also has at least one stack that has operated over the
10 years as a source for airborne emissions of perfluoroalkyl substances, thereby giving rise to
11 additional water contamination when airborne particles are deposited and dissolve and/or leach
12 into groundwater. Plume modeling conducted in 2002 by DuPont Engineering²⁹ demonstrates
13 that DuPont’s C8 manufacturing processes would give rise to an airborne APFO (C8) plume with
14 a “hot spot” directly over Willis Creek, which flows into Cape Fear River.

15 **b. Defendants’ Pollution of the Cape Fear River**

16 40. In 1980—unbeknownst to state or federal regulators or the public—DuPont began to
17 release Gen X (C6) at the Fayetteville Works site as a byproduct of one or more of its
18 manufacturing processes there, including, upon information and belief, a vinyl ether
19 manufacturing process. At a point in time that is as yet unknown, DuPont also began to release
20 other perfluoroalkyl substances (in addition to Gen X) from the Fayetteville Works site,
21 including PFOA (C8), Nafion® Byproducts 1 and 2 (C7) and other perfluorinated chemicals
22 known as PFECAs.³⁰ Indeed, upon information and belief, there are *hundreds* of different
23
24

25 ²⁷ *Id.*

26 ²⁸ *See id.*

27 ²⁹ *See* DuPont Engineering Technology, “Exposure Evaluation for New Process at Fayetteville Site”
(Aug. 20, 2001, rev. Feb. 20, 2002).

28 ³⁰ Perfluoroalkyl ether carbocyclic acids, a type of perfluoroalkyl substances that includes Gen X.

1 PFASs generated in DuPont's manufacturing processes, and an unknown number of these have
2 also been discharged into the waste stream and into the Cape Fear River.

3 41. Defendants were required to obtain a NPDES Permit from the State of North Carolina
4 before making an outlet into the Cape Fear River, or causing or permitting any waste to be
5 directly or indirectly discharged into waters of the state in violation of any State water quality
6 standards or point source effluent standards or limits. *See* 33 U.S.C. §§ 1311, 1342; N.C. Gen
7 Stat. § 143-215.1.

8 42. In 1987, DuPont obtained its initial NPDES Permit No. NC003573 from the State of
9 North Carolina,³¹ authorizing the release of wastewaters from the facility wastewater treatment
10 plant through Outfall 002, which feeds into the Cape Fear River. Upon information and belief,
11 DuPont did not disclose to the State that it planned to discharge Gen X, C8, or any other
12 perfluoroalkyl substances to the Cape Fear River, nor did it disclose the number, variety or
13 identity of the many PFAS chemicals generated in its processes and found in its waste streams.

14 43. The segment of the Cape Fear River affected by discharges from Outfall 002 is classified
15 by the State of North Carolina as "Class WS-IV" surface water, making it a "source of water
16 supply for drinking, culinary, or food-processing purposes" as well as for "aquatic life
17 propagation and maintenance of biological integrity (including fishing and fish), wildlife,
18 secondary recreation, [and] agriculture." 15A N.C.A.C. 2B.0211(1), 2B.0216(1); *see also* 15A
19 N.C.A.C. 2b.0101; N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143-214.1(b).

20 44. Upon information and belief, DuPont's on-site wastewater treatment plant is ineffective
21 at removing Gen X and other perfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) in the water that is discharged
22 into the Cape Fear River.

23 45. In 1995, DuPont asked the State of North Carolina for permission to reroute wastewater
24 from its Nafion® manufacturing area to bypass the facility wastewater treatment plant. At this
25

26 _____
27 ³¹ At the time, the regulating entity was known as the North Carolina Department of Environment &
28 Natural Resources, Division of Water Quality. It is now known as the Department of Environmental
Quality (DEQ), Division of Water Resources (DWR).

1 time, upon information and belief, DuPont knew that the wastewater it planned to discharge
2 contained Gen X and other PFAS byproducts of the Nafion® manufacturing process. Although
3 DuPont had a duty under North Carolina law and federal law to clearly identify in its NPDES
4 permit application any potential toxins, the only waste DuPont disclosed was fluoride. Upon
5 information and belief, the request to release Nafion® process wastewater directly into the Cape
6 Fear River was authorized in DuPont's 1996 NPDES Permit renewal.

7 46. In May 2001, following 3M Company's announcement that it would no longer
8 manufacture C8, DuPont submitted an NPDES Permit renewal application to the State of North
9 Carolina stating that it intended to begin manufacturing C8 at the Fayetteville Works Site.
10 DuPont represented to the State that C8 does not pose a health concern to humans or animals at
11 the levels present in the workplace or environment, that DuPont had used C8 for forty years with
12 no observed health effects, and that C8 is neither a known developmental toxin nor a known
13 carcinogen. DuPont requested authorization to discharge wastewater from its C8 operations
14 directly to a dedicated outfall, without sending it through the facility's wastewater treatment
15 plant. At this time, DuPont did not disclose that its manufacturing processes at the Fayetteville
16 Works site in fact generated hundreds of PFASs, nor did it disclose the number, variety or
17 identity of the PFASs found in its waste streams.

18 47. In October 2002—before the State granted the requested NPDES Permit renewal—
19 DuPont began making C8 at the Fayetteville Works site. In January 2004, the State granted the
20 renewed NPDES permit—without authorizing the requested discharge of the C8 manufacturing
21 wastewater into the Cape Fear River.

22 48. DuPont applied for its next NPDES renewal permit on May 1, 2006. DuPont's
23 application represented that wastewater from the C8 manufacturing operations "is collected and
24 shipped off-site for disposal"; that no process wastewater is discharged to the Site's wastewater
25 treatment plant or to the Cape Fear River, and that none of the produced C8 is used at the
26 Fayetteville Works site. DuPont further represented that wastewater from the Nafion®
27 operations was being treated in the facility's wastewater treatment plant. Upon information and
28

1 belief, DuPont did not disclose that it was releasing any C8, Gen X or other PFECAs, or other
2 perfluoroalkyl byproducts of its Nafion® operations, into the Cape Fear River. Nor did DuPont
3 disclose the number, variety or identity of the PFAS chemicals generated in its processes and
4 found in its waste streams.

5 49. The State granted a renewed NPDES permit on May 25, 2007. Under this permit, DuPont
6 was required to capture and dispose of all C8 process water off-site, and also to monitor for C8
7 due to known groundwater contamination. The resulting monitoring reports document discharges
8 and/or releases of C8 into the Cape Fear River through at least March 2017, when Chemours
9 reported PFOA (C8) discharges of 10,000 ppt through Outfall 002. Indeed, even after Chemours
10 reportedly stopped making C8 at the Fayetteville Works site in 2013, regular discharges of C8 at
11 Outfall 002 continued, reaching as high as 160,000 ppt in October 2016.³²

12 50. On January 28, 2009, DuPont entered into a consent order with the E.P.A governing the
13 manufacturing of Gen X. The consent order acknowledged that E.P.A. “has concerns that [Gen
14 X] will persist in the environment, could bioaccumulate, and be toxic . . . to people, wild
15 animals, and birds.” The consent order also acknowledged E.P.A.’s “human health concerns”
16 about Gen X, including that “uncontrolled . . . disposal of [Gen X] may present an unreasonable
17 risk of injury to human health and the environment.” The order required DuPont to “recover and
18 capture (destroy) or recycle [Gen X] at an overall efficiency of 99% from all of the effluent
19 process streams and the air emissions (point source and fugitive).” In negotiating the Consent
20 Order, upon information and belief, neither DuPont (nor, apparently, its lawyers) disclosed to the
21 E.P.A. that DuPont had been releasing Gen X (and other related PFASs) into the Cape Fear
22 River from the Fayetteville Works site since at least 1980. And once more, DuPont remained
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25 ³² See ICIS Detail Report for NPDES Permit No. NC0003673 based on data extracted based on data
26 extracted on June 28, 2017, available at
27 https://iaspub.epa.gov/enviro/ICIS_DETAIL_REPORTS_NPDESID.icis_tst?npdesid=NC0003573&npvalue=1&npvalue=13&npvalue=14&npvalue=3&npvalue=4&npvalue=5&npvalue=6&rvalue=13&npvalue=2&npvalue=7&npvalue=8&npvalue=11&npvalue=12
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1 silent about the number, variety and identity of the PFAS chemicals generated in its processes
2 and found in its waste streams.

3 51. Upon information and belief, DuPont met with North Carolina regulators in August 2010
4 and represented (1) that—like C8—GenX would be produced in a “closed-loop” system that
5 would not result in the discharge of GenX into the Cape Fear River; and (2) that the wastewater
6 generated from GenX manufacturing would be collected and shipped off-site for disposal.

7 DuPont did not disclose to the State that it had already been discharging GenX or other PFECAs,
8 or other perfluoroalkyl byproducts from its Nafion® processes into the Cape Fear River. Nor did
9 DuPont disclose to regulators the number, variety and identity of the PFAS chemicals generated
10 in its processes and found in its waste streams.

11 52. The following year, in April 2011, DuPont applied for a renewal of its NPDES Permit,
12 confirming that “all process wastewater generated from [the PPA Manufacturing Area where
13 DuPont produced C8 and GenX] is collected and shipped offsite for disposal” and “no process
14 wastewater from this manufacturing facility is discharged to the site’s biological [wastewater
15 treatment plant] or to the Cape Fear River.” DuPont continued to mislead regulators, failing to
16 explain that the Fayetteville Works operations had been contaminating the Cape Fear River with
17 PFASs such as Gen X and Nafion® Byproducts 1 and 2 since approximately 1980, and failing to
18 disclose the number, variety or identity of the PFAS chemicals generated in its processes and
19 found in its waste streams, even though DuPont knew full well that regulators had serious
20 concerns about the effects of these substances on human health and understood that its
21 discharges were contaminating the drinking water used by hundreds of thousands of North
22 Carolinians. In fact, at the very same time DuPont was reassuring the State about its “closed
23 system” for manufacturing Gen X, upon information and belief, DuPont was discharging Gen X
24 and other perfluoroalkyl byproducts of its Nafion® manufacturing processes into the Cape Fear
25 River on an ongoing basis.

26 53. On February 6, 2012, the State of North Carolina issued NPDES renewal permits to
27 DuPont, and to Chemours on October 28, 2015. Upon information and belief, the Permit does
28

1 not authorize any discharges of Gen X or other PFESAs or other perfluoroalkyl byproducts of
2 the Nafion® processes from the Fayetteville Works site.

3 54. DuPont conducted a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Facility Investigation
4 (RFI), in three phases from 2001 through 2014. The RFI identified widespread C8 contamination
5 in the soil and groundwater at the Fayetteville Works site, some of which DuPont attributed to its
6 past Nafion® manufacturing activities, including a “historical release originating from the
7 Nafion® manufacturing area’s common process wastewater sump.”³³ The RFI also documented
8 at least seven releases of PFASs at the Fayetteville Works site between March 2011 and
9 February 2013.

10 55. In 2015, State regulators required Chemours to perform additional groundwater sampling
11 to determine if groundwater flowing from the Fayetteville Works site was contaminating the
12 Cape Fear River with C8 or other PFASs. Chemours still did not disclose to regulators that the
13 Fayetteville Works operations had been contaminating the Cape Fear River with PFASs such as
14 Gen X and Nafion® Byproducts 1 and 2 since approximately 1980. Upon information and
15 belief, Chemours identified both C8 and other PFASs in its ground water, but only disclosed to
16 the State (at the time) that it had found C8.

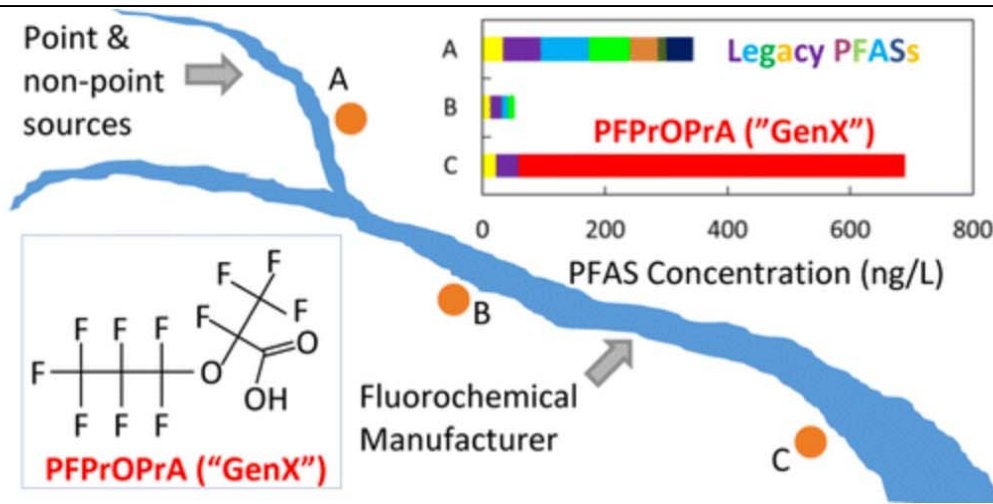
17 56. At least by 2015, and reportedly by April 2013, Defendants ceased manufacturing C8 at
18 the Fayetteville Works site. Manufacturing of Gen X and fluoroproducts such as Nafion®
19 perfluorosulfonic acid (PFSA) membrane, however, have continued.

20 57. At all relevant times, Defendants knew, or should have known, that the perfluoroalkyl
21 substances they were releasing into the environment created a probable risk to human health in
22 the public drinking water supply drawn from the Cape Fear River, due to the persistence and
23 toxicity of these substances and the fact that they are not removed through conventional water
24 treatment processes.

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26
27 ³³ DuPont Fluoroproducts, “Biennial Report for the Manufacture of APFO Calendar Years of 2002 and
28 2003, DuPont Company —Fayetteville Works,” submitted October 26, 2004 in U.S. E.P.A. Docket No.
AR-226.

c. Public Disclosure of Defendants' Pollution.

58. In November 2016, Dr. Detlef Knappe of North Carolina State University and a team of researchers from other institutions published a study that identified GenX and other PFASs at the King's Bluff intake site in the Cape Fear River,³⁴ at levels that are believed to be unsafe. Between June 14, 2013 and December 2, 2013 Dr. Knappe's team had taken daily samples of raw water downstream of the Fayetteville Works site at the King's Bluff intake, and at two locations upstream of the Fayetteville Works site. While upstream sampling revealed only the presence of so-called "legacy PFASs,"³⁵ at King's Bluff, Dr. Knappe's team found concentrations of Gen X as high as 4,500 parts per trillion ("ng/L" or "ppt"), with a mean (average) concentration of Gen X of 631 ppt—both well in excess of the current the current state health goal of 140 ppt.



Source: Mei Sun, et al., "Legacy and Emerging Perfluoroalkyl Substances are Important Drinking Water Contaminants in the Cape Fear Watershed of North Carolina," 3 *Environ. Sci. Technol. Let.* 415 (2016).

Dr. Knappe's team also detected significant concentrations of six other PFECAs at King's Bluff.

³⁴ Mei Sun, et. al, “Legacy and Emerging Perfluoroalkyl Substances are Important Drinking Water Contaminants in the Cape Fear Watershed of North Carolina,” 3 *Environ. Sci. Technol. Let.* 415 (2016).

³⁵ E.g., PFASs that had been phased out through the E.P.A.'s voluntary PFOA Stewardship Program.

1 59. DuPont reportedly installed new abatement technology in November 2013, that the
2 company claimed would “dramatically drop” the average Gen X levels in the Cape Fear River.
3 Dr. Knappe’s 2016 article reports, however, that additional samples taken in August 2014
4 showed similar levels of Gen X to the mean concentrations he had found in August 2013 (again,
5 in excess of the current North Carolina state health advisory standard) as well as a high
6 concentration of other PEFCAs at levels that are believed to be unsafe for humans.

7 60. Dr. Knappe further reported that based on an analysis taken every stage of the water
8 treatment process at the Sweeney Water Treatment Plant in Wilmington, North Carolina, PFASs
9 in the Cape Fear River were not effectively removed by the coagulation, ozonation, biofiltration,
10 or disinfection processes ordinarily used by water providers such as Plaintiff to treat drinking
11 water.³⁶

12 61. On June 15, 2017, representatives of Chemours met with officials from state and local
13 agencies, including Plaintiff Brunswick County, and represented that the GenX compound found
14 in the Cape Fear River was not due to discharge from the plant making GenX but was likely a
15 byproduct of another manufacturing process conducted at the Fayetteville Works site *since 1980*.
16 Upon information and belief, these discharges exceeded the current state health goal of 140 ppt
17 and occurred at levels believed to be unsafe for human consumption.

18 62. In July 2017, upon information and belief, Chemours admitted to State regulators that its
19 2015 groundwater sampling had also revealed the presence of PFASs other than C8 at the
20 Fayetteville Works site.

21 63. In August 2017, the State requested additional groundwater sampling at the Fayetteville
22 Works site, which demonstrated the presence of Gen X at 13 of 14 sampling locations, at levels
23 greater than the practical quantitation limit of 10 ng/L (ppt). Levels of Gen X in groundwater
24 monitoring wells at the site show Gen X at concentrations from 519 to 61,300 ppt—vastly
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26

27 ³⁶ Mei Sun, et. al, *supra* note 34.
28

1 exceeding both the PQL and the current state health goal of 140 ppt. Five wells adjacent to the
2 Cape Fear River have Gen X concentrations in excess of 11,800 ppt.

3 64. In August 2017, the E.P.A. confirmed the presence of additional byproducts of
4 Defendants' Nafion® manufacturing processes, described as PFESA Byproduct No. 1 and
5 PFESA Byproduct No. 2 (and referred to in this Complaint as Nafion® Byproduct Nos. 1 and 2),
6 at an outfall where Defendants' wastewater is discharged into the Cape Fear River. In particular,
7 even after Chemours took undisclosed steps to reduce its PFAS releases from the Fayetteville
8 Works site, the E.P.A. found levels of Nafion® Byproduct No. 1 (CAS No. 29311-67-9) as high
9 as 15,800 ppt, and Nafion® Byproduct No. 2 (CAS No. 749836-20-2) as high as 73,900 ppt.

10 65. All of the PFAS chemicals found in the Cape Fear River—including Gen X, and PFESA
11 Byproduct No. 1 and PFESA Byproduct No. 2—have been consistently found at levels that far
12 exceed the EPA's health standards for PFOA/PFOS. Given what is believed to be the
13 cumulative nature of PFAS exposures, and the fact that these substances were continuously
14 discharged into the region's public water supply for nearly forty years, extreme caution should
15 be taken to completely eliminate any further PFAS chemicals from entering into the public water
16 systems.

17 66. It is believed that there are a number of other PFAS chemicals that have not been
18 specifically named or identified that have also been released from Defendants' operations at the
19 Fayetteville Works site and have contaminated the Cape Fear River at unsafe levels.
20 Notwithstanding the great public interest and concern about Defendants' contamination of the
21 Cape Fear River, Defendants *still* have not released information to the public or to regulators that
22 would identify the number, variety and identity of PFASs they have generated in their
23 manufacturing processes and released through waste streams into the environment around the
24 Fayetteville Works site.

25 **d. The Chemicals at Issue**

26 67. Perfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) that have been detected in raw and/or treated water
27 drawn from the Cape Fear River downstream of the Fayetteville Works facility, and that upon
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information and belief have resulted from Defendants' activities at the Fayetteville Works site, include, but are not limited to: perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA or "C8") (CAS No. 335-67-1), several perfluoroalkyl ether carboxylic acids (PFECAs), including perfluoro-2-propoxypropanoic acid (PFPrOPrA or "Gen X") (CAS No. 13252-13-6); and two byproducts of the Nafion[®] perfluorosulfonic acid (PFSA)³⁷ membrane manufacturing process that are known only to the Plaintiff as "PFESA Byproducts 1 and 2" (or "Nafion[®] Byproducts 1 and 2").³⁸

68. PFASs are a class of man-made chemicals that do not occur naturally in the environment. They have been widely used to make products more stain-resistant, waterproof and/or nonstick, although they have many other commercial applications in aerospace, automotive, construction, and electronics manufacturing. PFASs may be differentiated from each other by the "chain length," or the number of carbon atoms, in the molecule. PFOA, for example, has eight carbon atoms, so it is referred to as "C8" and considered a "long-chain" PFAS.

³⁷ Perfluorosulfonic acid is a perfluoroalkyl substance.

³⁸ The complete list of PFASs found by Dr. Knappe's team consists of:

a. Perfluorocarboxylic acids (PFCAs):

- i. Perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA) (CAS No. 375-22-4);
- ii. Perfluoropentanoic acid (PFPeA) (CAS No. 2706-90-3);
- iii. Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA) (CAS No. 335-67-1);
- iv. Perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA) (CAS No. 335-67-1);
- v. Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA or "C8") (CAS No. 335-67-1);
- vi. Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA) (CAS No. 375-95-1);
- vii. Perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA) (CAS No. 335-76-2);

b. Perfluorosulfonic acids (PFSAs):

- i. Perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS) (CAS No. 375-73-5);
- ii. Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHSx) (CAS No. 355-46-4);
- iii. Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) (CAS No. 1763-23-1);

c. Perfluoroalkyl ether carboxylic acids (PFECAs):

- i. Perfluoro-2-methoxyacetic acid (PFMOAA) (CAS No. 674-13-5);
- ii. Perfluoro-3-methoxypropanoic acid (PFMOPrA) (CAS No. 377-73-1);
- iii. Perfluoro-4-methoxybutanoic acid (PFMOBA) (CAS No. 863090-89-5);
- iv. Perfluoro-2-propoxypropanoic acid (PFPrOPrA or "Gen X") (CAS No. 13252-13-6);
- v. Perfluoro(3,5-diols)hexanoic acid (PFO2HxA) (CAS No. 39492-88-1);
- vi. Perfluoro(3,5,7-trioxo)octanoic acid (PFO3OA) (CAS No. 39492-89-2);
- vii. Perfluoro(3,5,7,9-tetraoxo)decanoic acid (PFO4DA) (CAS No. 39492-90-5).

69. PFASs are highly persistent in the environment, as they contain perfluorinated chains that only degrade very slowly, if at all, under environmental conditions. For example, it is documented that some polyfluorinated chemicals break down to form perfluorinated ones.³⁹

70. PFASs are found in the indoor and outdoor environments, wildlife, and human tissue and bodily fluids all over the globe. They are emitted via industrial processes and military and firefighting operations, and they migrate out of consumer products into air, household dust, food, soil, ground and surface water, and make their way into drinking water.⁴⁰

71. Regulators and the public have little access to information about the commercial applications, potential release mechanisms, and resulting exposure sources and concentrations for many of the individual PFASs, of which there are thousands. As a result, there is little knowledge of their environmental fate and transport characteristics, or their toxicological properties, because they have not been studied. Most of the data on fate and toxicity has been provided by industry and is limited to the required testing. Non-industry researchers are hindered by the difficulty of obtaining from the manufacturers (who treat these substances as proprietary) the necessary reference standards they need to study the toxicity of these substances in the laboratory and to develop analytical techniques to detect and quantify their presence in the environment.⁴¹

72. On information and belief, PFASs have sufficiently similar chemical structures and functions to render exposures cumulative, for purposes of their toxicity in humans and animals.

a. “Long Chain” PFASs.

73. Of the PFASs, so-called “long chain PFASs”—in particular, the PFOA/C8 used in making Teflon[®] and a similar chemical used in making ScotchGuard,⁴² PFOS—have been the most extensively studied and regulated to date.

³⁹ Arlene Blum, et al., “The Madrid Statement on Poly- and Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFASs),” 123 *Env’tl Health Persp.* A 107 (May 2015), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1289/ehp.1509934>.

⁴⁰ *Id.*

⁴¹ See, e.g., Wang et al., “A Never-Ending Story of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFASs)?” 51 *Environ. Sci. Technol.* 2508 (2017).

⁴² PFOS, which is perfluorooctanyl sulfonate, CAS No. 1763-23-1.

1 74. In animal studies, some long-chain PFASs have been found to cause liver toxicity,
2 disruption of lipid metabolism and the immune and endocrine systems, adverse neurobehavioral
3 effects, neonatal toxicity and death, and tumors in multiple organ systems. In the growing body
4 of epidemiological evidence, some of these effects are supported by significant or suggestive
5 associations between specific long-chain PFASs and adverse outcomes, including associations
6 with testicular and kidney cancers, liver malfunction, hypothyroidism, high cholesterol,
7 ulcerative colitis, lower birth weight and size, obesity, decreased immune response to vaccines,
8 and reduced hormone levels and delayed puberty.⁴³

9 75. The “C8 Science Panel” that was empowered by DuPont to “offer a scientific answer to
10 the important fundamental question: Is PFOA exposure as experienced by the class [of people
11 who obtained their drinking water from the Ohio River] capable of causing serious latent
12 disease?”⁴⁴ has concluded there is a “probable link” between exposure to the long-chain PFAS
13 known as PFOA or C8 in drinking water and the serious conditions of pregnancy-induced
14 hypertension and preeclampsia, high cholesterol, kidney cancer, thyroid disease, testicular
15 cancer, and ulcerative colitis.⁴⁵

16 76. In 2006, the E.P.A. initiated the voluntary PFOA Stewardship Program, calling for the
17 complete elimination of PFOA (C8) and long-chain PFASs from emissions to all media and from
18 manufactured products by 2015, “because of concerns about the impact of PFOA and long-chain
19 PFASs on human health and the environment, including concerns about their persistence,
20 presence in the environment and in the blood of the general U.S. population, long half-life in
21 people, and developmental and other adverse effects in laboratory animals.”⁴⁶

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23
24 ⁴³ *Id.*

25 ⁴⁴ Letter dated January 22, 2010 from Laurence F. Janssen, Esq. [lead counsel for DuPont] to Drs.
Fletcher, Steenland & Savitz [the C8 Science Panel], re: “Jack W. Leach et al., v. E.I. du Pont de
Nemours and Company, Circuit Court of Wood County, WV, Civil Action No. 01-C-608.”

26 ⁴⁵ See ¶8, *supra*.

27 ⁴⁶ U.S. Env’tl Prot. Agency, “Fact Sheet: 2010/2015 PFOA Stewardship Program,” accessed at
<https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/fact-sheet-20102015-pfoa-stewardship-program#launch>.

1 77. In 2009, the E.P.A. included PFOA/C8 and PFOS on its “Drinking Water Contaminant
2 Candidate List 3,” for which “the occurrence or anticipated occurrence of a contaminant was
3 likely at levels of concern to human health.”⁴⁷

4 78. In 2009, the E.P.A. established provisional health advisories (PHAs) for short-term
5 exposures to PFOA and PFOS through drinking water, recommending a level of 0.4 ppb (parts
6 per billion) for PFOA and 0.2 ppb (parts per billion) for PFOS. In 2016, the E.P.A. issued more
7 stringent lifetime health advisories for long-term exposures to C8 and PFOS, recommending that
8 the *combined* level of these two PFASs in drinking water should not exceed 70 parts per trillion
9 (ppt).⁴⁸ The similar PFASs found in the Cape Fear River—including Gen X and Nafion®
10 Byproducts 1 and 2—have consistently been found at levels that well exceed the E.P.A.’s health
11 advisories for PFOA and PFOS.

12 **b. “Short Chain” PFASs.**

13 79. The most common replacements for the long-chain PFASs targeted by E.P.A.’s PFOA
14 Stewardship Program are shorter-chain PFASs with similar structures, or compounds with
15 fluorinated segments joined by ether linkages, such as the PFECAs that include Gen X and
16 Nafion® Byproducts 1 and 2.

17 80. These shorter-chain fluorinated alternatives are more likely than not bioaccumulative,
18 and they are still as environmentally persistent as long-chain substances or may degrade into
19 equally persistent products.⁴⁹ Manufacturing applications often requires a higher relative
20 concentration of shorter-chain PFAS to achieve the same level of desired performance as
21 provided by the longer-chain PFAS, resulting in higher application concentrations for the
22 alternatives, and potentially higher released concentrations to the environment.

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25 ⁴⁷ U.S. Env’tl Prot. Agency, “Drinking Water Contaminant Candidate List 3—Final,” 74 Fed. Reg. 51850
26 (Oct. 8, 2009).

27 ⁴⁸ U.S. Env’tl Prot. Agency, *Lifetime Health Advisories and Health Effects Support Documents for*
Perfluorooctanoic Acid and Perfluorooctane Sulfonate, 81 Fed. Reg. 33250 (May 25, 2016).

28 ⁴⁹ Arlene Blum, et al., *supra* note 39.

81. As with the long-chain PFASs, evidence exists to support the toxicity of PFECAs in humans and animals, as noted in the March 11, 2009 Consent Order entered on DuPont's Premanufacture Notice for P-08-508 and P-08-509.

82. DuPont has been studying the health effects of the PFECA's known as Gen X since last least 1963, when it conducted an acute oral toxicity study in rats to determine the lethal dose for exposure to Gen X's ammonium salt. DuPont's internal data studies have demonstrated an association between Gen X and various health effects in laboratory animals that are consistent with the effects of other PFASs, including effects in the liver, kidney, pancreas, testicles, and immune system.⁵⁰

83. The publicly-reported results of Defendants' studies on the toxicity of Gen X contain misrepresentations and factual misstatements that tend to understate Gen X's potential for toxicity.⁵¹ Defendants' selective and/or misleading release of data on Gen X is consistent with Defendants' concealment of similar pertinent health data on C8—for which they received an administrative penalty from the E.P.A.

84. Data from DuPont's animal studies indicates that Gen X is an animal carcinogen in multiple organ systems in both male and female rats, and that Gen X poses reproductive/developmental risks, as well as toxicity in the liver, kidneys, the hematological system, the adrenal glands, the stomach, as well as other adverse effects.⁵²

85. Specifically, DuPont's data⁵³ show toxic effects from short term exposures, sub-chronic exposures, and long-term exposures:

⁵⁰ See TSCA Non-Confidential Business Information submitted to E.P.A. 8(e) Coordinator, USEPA, for 8EHQ-06-16478,

<https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/2746960/GenX8eFilings.pdf>.

⁵¹ See Beekam et al. "Evaluation of substances used in the GenX technology by Chemours, Dordrecht," RIVM Letter report 2016-0174 (National Institute for Public Health and the Environment Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, The Netherlands 2016); and J.M. Caverly Rae, et al., "Evaluation of chronic toxicity and carcinogenicity of ammonium 2,3,3,3-tetrafluoro-2-(heptafluoropropoxy)-propanoate in Sprague-Dawley rats," 2 Toxicology Reports 939 (2015).

⁵² See data reported in Lisa Craig, "H-28548: Combined Chronic Toxicity/Oncogenicity Study 2-Year Oral Gavage Study In Rats"—Laboratory Project ID: DuPont-18405-1238" (MPI Research, Inc., Mattawan, Michigan 2013) (sponsored By E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company).

⁵³ *Id.*

1 a. Gen X exposure to rats and mice resulted in numerous different types of cancer at
2 levels exceeding controls in the brain, liver, adrenal gland, pancreas (two types of pancreatic
3 cancer), testes, as well as fibrosarcomas, malignant lymphomas, and uterine polyps.

4 b. Gen X exposure to rats and mice resulted in adverse reproductive and
5 developmental effects, severe liver toxicity and adverse liver impacts from changes to RNA
6 messaging, that may lead to adverse effects not only in the liver, but in other organs, as well as
7 cancer occurrence.

8 c. Gen X exposure to rats and mice resulted in adverse impacts in the adrenal gland,
9 kidneys, stomach, bile duct, brain, reproductive cycles, the tongue, eyes, and immune system,
10 and potentially may result in genotoxicity.

11 86. The toxicity results from reports of animal studies in fact indicate that Gen X is a
12 significantly toxic PFAS. Human studies have not been done at this time. However, based on the
13 available animal studies, Gen X may in fact be as toxic *or more toxic* to humans than PFOA.

14 87. Likely human adverse effects from Gen X exposure could range from reproductive/
15 developmental adverse effects to adverse liver effects, to human immune system/RNA
16 messaging disruption adverse impacts, to stomach, ocular, and tongue toxicity, to human cancer.
17 Human exposure to Gen X in drinking water is continuous, moreover, unlike the exposure in
18 existing animal studies.

19 88. In July 2017, the North Carolina Health and Human Services Department released a
20 health goal for exposure to Gen X in drinking water of 140 nanograms per liter (parts per trillion
21 or “ppt”). According to the State, this updated health goal of 140 ppt is expected to be the most
22 conservative and health protective for non-cancer effects in bottle-fed infants, pregnant women,
23 lactating women, children and adults. It is based, however, on the available public literature that
24 consists primarily of DuPont-funded (and misleading) publications as discussed above.

25 89. Given what is believed to be the cumulative nature of PFAS exposure, and the fact that
26 consumers of the public drinking water drawn from the Cape Fear River have already been
27 exposed to a combination of Defendants’ perfluorinated contaminants (including PFOA/C8, Gen
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1 X, and Nafion® Byproducts 1 and 2, and an unknown number of other PFEASs) for the last
2 thirty-seven years (or more), extreme caution should be taken to completely eliminate any further
3 PFAS chemicals from entering into Plaintiff's public water system.

4 **e. Defendants' Statutory Violations**

5 90. Defendants violated their ongoing duty under both North Carolina and Federal law to
6 disclose to the State of North Carolina any known constituents in their discharges that posed a
7 potential risk to human health, in connection with their NPDES Permit. *See, e.g.*, 15A N.C.A.C.
8 2H.0105(j)(requiring applicants to disclose "all known toxic components that can be reasonably
9 expected to be in the discharge, including but not limited to those contained in a priority
10 pollutant analysis"); 14A N.C.A.C. 2B.0202(64) (defining toxic substances to include "any
11 substance or combination of substances...which after discharge and upon exposure...has the
12 potential to cause death, disease, behavioral abnormalities, cancer, genetic mutations,
13 physiological malfunctions (including malfunctions or suppression in reproduction or growth) or
14 physical deformities in such organisms or their offspring"); 40 C.F.R. § 122.41(l)(8) (requiring,
15 as a standard NPDES permit condition, that "[w]here the permittee becomes aware that it failed
16 to submit any relevant facts in a permit application, or submitted incorrect information in a
17 permit application . . . it shall promptly submit such facts or information."); U.S. Env'tl Prot.
18 Agency, "Revised Policy Statement on Scope of Discharge Authorization and Shield Associated
19 with NPDES Permits," available at <https://www3.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/owm0131.pdf>.

20 91. Defendants also violated, and continue to violate, their duty under the NPDES Permit to
21 take "all reasonable steps to minimize or prevent any discharge . . . in violation of [its] permit
22 with a reasonable likelihood of adversely affecting human health or the environment," 40 C.F.R.
23 § 122.41(d), as well as their duty under North Carolina groundwater regulations to take action to
24 terminate and control any discharge of "waste or hazardous substance to the groundwaters of the
25 State, or in proximity thereto," mitigate any resulting hazards, and notify State regulators. 15A
26 N.C.A.C. 2L .0106(b).

1 92. Defendants’ ongoing discharges into the Cape Fear River have violated, and continue to
2 violate, North Carolina water quality standards for surface water, in that they:

3 a. render the Cape Fear River waters injurious to aquatic life or wildlife, recreational
4 activities, public health, or impair the waters for one or more of their designated uses, 15A
5 N.C.A.C. 02B .0208(a); and

6 b. preclude, on a short term and/or long term basis, one or more of the best uses of
7 the water, including as “a source of water supply for drinking, culinary, or food-processing
8 purposes” and for “aquatic life propagation and maintenance of biological integrity (including
9 fishing and fish), wildlife, secondary recreation, [and] agriculture.” See 15A N.C.A.C. 2B
10 .0216(2) and 15A N.C.A.C. 2B .0216(1) & .0211(1).

11 93. Defendants’ ongoing discharges of Gen X and, upon information and belief, other
12 perfluoroalkyl substances known as PFECAs (perfluoroalkyl ether carboxylic acids) including
13 Nafion® Byproducts 1 and 2, into groundwater have violated, and continue to violate, North
14 Carolina groundwater standards in that these discharges are comprised of substances which are
15 not naturally occurring and for which no standard is specified, but are contaminating
16 groundwater at or above the practical quantitation limit (PQL), as prohibited by 15A N.C.A.C.
17 2L .0202(c).

18 **f. Damages to Plaintiff and Its Public Drinking Water Resources**

19 94. Plaintiff owns, operates, and maintains a public water distribution system that treats raw
20 water drawn from the Cape Fear River and distributes it as drinking water to approximately
21 73,000 residential customers in Brunswick County, as well as more than 2,000 commercial
22 customers. Plaintiff has a property interest—including upon information and belief a
23 usufructuary interest—in the water it received from the Cape Fear River. Plaintiff has suffered,
24 and continues to suffer, damages to its property and to its public drinking water resources as a
25 direct and proximate result of Defendants’ conduct as set forth above.

26 95. Specifically, the County’s water supply, raw water, water treatment system, and
27 distribution system are contaminated with PFASs.
28

1 96. As a community public water supplier, Plaintiff obtains raw water pumped by the Lower
2 Cape Fear Water & Sewer Authority from the King's Bluff intake on the Cape Fear River and
3 treats it at the Northwest Water Treatment Plant owned and operated by Plaintiff. Under its
4 contract with LCFWSA, Plaintiff is also responsible for maintaining the LCFWSA facility at the
5 King's Bluff intake.

6 97. Under G.S. 130A Article 10, Plaintiff is required to receive a permit for its community
7 public water supply system—identified as EPA SDWIS No. NC0410045—from the State of
8 North Carolina, Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Resources, and must
9 comply with the rules found in Title 15A, Subchapter 18C of the North Carolina Administrative
10 Codes, as well as the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300f, *et seq.*, and the
11 regulations found in 40 C.F.R. Parts 141 and 142.

12 98. As community public water supplier, Plaintiff has spent substantial amounts of money to
13 ensure a safe and high-quality drinking water supply for the public. Plaintiff's conventional
14 water treatment systems are presently incapable of effectively removing the perfluorinated
15 chemicals Defendants have released—and continue to release—into the Cape Fear River. Given
16 what is believed to be the cumulative nature of PFAS exposure, and the fact Plaintiffs' customers
17 have already been exposed to a combination of Defendants' perfluorinated contaminants
18 (including PFOA/C8, Gen X, and Nafion® Byproducts 1 and 2, and an unknown number of
19 other PFEASs) for decades, extreme caution should be taken to completely prevent any further
20 PFAS chemicals from entering into Plaintiff's public water system. Plaintiff will incur
21 substantial costs to identify, construct, maintain, and operate an appropriate treatment system
22 that can remove Defendants' perfluorinated chemicals from its public drinking water for the
23 foreseeable future.

24 99. In 2014 and 2015, water testing established the presence of C8 and PFOS compounds at
25 the Northwest Water Treatment Plant owned and operated by Plaintiff. In June 2017, additional
26 testing found Gen X at the King's Bluff intake in amounts substantially in excess of the state
27 health goal in raw water (ranging from 629 ppt to 830 ppt). Additional testing at this time also
28

1 found Gen X in treated water at the Northwest Water Treatment Plant at levels substantially
2 exceeding the state health goal, ranging from 695 to 910 ppt. As recently as October 12, 2017,
3 testing has confirmed the continuing presence of C8, Gen X, and other perfluorinated chemicals
4 in both raw and treated water at Plaintiff's Northwest Water Treatment Plant.⁵⁴

5 100. Upon information and belief, Chemours has taken undisclosed steps to decrease its Gen
6 X emissions after the public exposure of its long history of Gen X contamination from the
7 Fayetteville Works site in mid-2017, but has not attempted (or achieved) any decrease in its other
8 PFAS emissions, which include Nafion® Byproducts 1 and 2 and—upon information and
9 belief—a number of other unidentified PFASs. Further, the PFASs Defendants released for
10 several decades are believed to be contained in the sediment of the Cape Fear River, in the
11 groundwater that feeds the River at the Fayetteville Works site, and in deposits from the air
12 emanating from the Fayetteville Works site. Thus, PFAS contaminants will continue to enter the
13 Cape Fear River for decades to come even if Chemours removes these chemicals from its waste
14 stream. Particularly in view of Defendants' long history of deceiving regulators and the public
15 about emissions both from the Fayetteville Works site and from their other facilities in the
16 United States, Plaintiff cannot rely upon Chemours to protect the quality of the public drinking
17 water Plaintiff supplies, but must investigate and develop an effective method of removing the
18 continuing PFAS contamination from the raw water Plaintiff obtains from the Cape Fear River
19 and delivers to the public. By this action, Plaintiff seeks the costs to design, operate and
20 maintain an adequate filtration system that will completely remove all PFAS chemicals from its
21 public water supply.

22 **V. CAUSES OF ACTION**

23 **COUNT I** 24 **Public Nuisance**

25 101. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all other paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set
26 forth here, and further alleges as follows.

27 ⁵⁴ <http://www.brunswickcountync.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/BCPU-17-15909-10-12-17.pdf>
28

1 102. Defendants' operation of the Fayetteville Works facility, and their discharges, emissions,
2 and releases of perfluoroalkyl substances including, but not limited to, PFOA ("C8"), Gen X,
3 Nafion® Byproducts 1 and 2, and other perfluoroalkyl substances known as PFECAs
4 (perfluoroalkyl ether carboxylic acids), create a public nuisance that unreasonably endangers the
5 health of thousands of North Carolina residents served by Plaintiff's public water system.

6 103. The condition created by Defendants affects a substantial number of people who use the
7 Cape Fear River as a drinking water supply and interferes with the rights of the public at large to
8 clean and safe drinking water.

9 104. An ordinary person would be reasonably annoyed or disturbed by the presence of toxic
10 perfluoroalkyl substances including, but not limited to, PFOA ("C8"), Gen X, Nafion®
11 Byproducts 1 and 2, and other perfluoroalkyl substances known as PFECAs (perfluoroalkyl ether
12 carboxylic acids), that endanger the health of animals and humans and degrades water quality.

13 105. The seriousness of the environmental and human health risk Defendants have created far
14 outweighs any social utility of Defendants' conduct in manufacturing products using
15 perfluoroalkyl substances including, but not limited to, PFOA ("C8"), Gen X, Nafion®
16 Byproducts 1 and 2, and other perfluoroalkyl substances known as PFECAs (perfluoroalkyl ether
17 carboxylic acids), and concealing the dangers posed to human health and the environment.

18 106. Continuing harm caused by Defendants includes not only their ongoing releases of Gen
19 X, Nafion® Byproducts 1 and 2, and other perfluoroalkyl substances known as PFECAs
20 (perfluoroalkyl ether carboxylic acids), but also the continued propagation of Defendants'
21 historical releases of perfluoroalkyl substances, including PFOA ("C8"), through migration in
22 groundwater, leaching from soil, and recirculation from sediments.

23 107. Defendants knew or, in the exercise of reasonable care, should have known that its
24 manufacturing operations at the Fayetteville Works site were causing the type of contamination
25 now found in the Cape Fear River. Defendants knew of the bioaccumulative, persistent
26 properties of PFASs and the inability of conventional water treatment systems to remove them.
27 Defendants knew that their perfluoroalkyl substances including, but not limited to, PFOA
28

1 (“C8”), Gen X, Nafion® Byproducts 1 and 2, and other perfluoroalkyl substances known as
2 PFECAs (perfluoroalkyl ether carboxylic acids), would contaminate the water supply in the Cape
3 Fear River. In addition, Defendants knew that certain perfluoroalkyl substances including PFOA
4 (“C8”) are associated with serious toxic effects and cancers in humans exposed through drinking
5 water, and that other similar PFECAs (perfluoroalkyl ether carboxylic acids), including Gen X,
6 are associated with serious toxic effects in animals, have not been studied in humans, and present
7 a probable risk to human health. As a result, it was foreseeable to Defendants that humans may
8 be exposed to perfluoroalkyl substances including, but not limited to, PFOA (“C8”), Gen X,
9 Nafion® Byproducts 1 and 2, and other perfluoroalkyl substances known as PFECAs
10 (perfluoroalkyl ether carboxylic acids), by drinking treated drinking water drawn from the Cape
11 Fear River. Defendants thus knew, or should have known, that their contamination would
12 seriously and unreasonably interfere with the ordinary comfort, use, and enjoyment of the Cape
13 Fear River.

14 108. The condition created by Defendants adversely affects the quality of the raw water drawn
15 from the Cape Fear River and causes inconvenience and annoyance to Plaintiff, who must incur
16 costs in order to ensure the safety of the public drinking water it supplies.

17 109. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants’ creation of this public nuisance, Plaintiff
18 has suffered—and will continue to suffer—harm that is different from the type of harm suffered
19 by the general public, and Plaintiff will incur substantial costs to remove Defendants’
20 contamination from the drinking water it distributes.

21 110. Defendants’ conduct was a substantial factor in causing the harm to Plaintiff. The harm to
22 Plaintiff and the citizens served by its public water system will continue until an injunction is
23 issued to abate the nuisance Defendants have created.

24 111. Plaintiff seeks all legal and equitable relief as allowed by law, including *inter alia* actual
25 damages in an amount to be proven at trial, an injunction to abate the nuisance, all costs and
26 expenses of suit and pre- and post-judgment interest.

COUNT II
Private Nuisance

112. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all other paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth here, and further alleges as follows.

113. Defendants' operation of the Fayetteville Works facility, and their discharges, emissions, and releases of perfluoroalkyl substances including, but not limited to, PFOA ("C8"), Gen X, Nafion® Byproducts 1 and 2, and other perfluoroalkyl substances known as PFECAs (perfluoroalkyl ether carboxylic acids), constitute an unreasonable use of Defendants' land which as caused substantial and unreasonable interference with Plaintiff's use and enjoyment of its property.

114. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' conduct that created a nuisance, Plaintiff has incurred injuries, damage, and harm as set forth above. Defendants are liable for damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

115. The nuisance Defendants have created is ongoing and the harm to Plaintiff will continue until an injunction is issued to abate it.

116. Plaintiff seeks all legal and equitable relief as allowed by law, including *inter alia* actual damages in an amount to be proven at trial, an injunction to abate the nuisance, all costs and expenses of suit and pre- and post-judgment interest.

COUNT III
Trespass to Real Property

117. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all other paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth here, and further alleges as follows.

118. Defendants' operation of the Fayetteville Works facility, and their discharges, emissions, and releases of perfluoroalkyl substances including, but not limited to, PFOA ("C8"), Gen X, Nafion® Byproducts 1 and 2, and other perfluoroalkyl substances known as PFECAs (perfluoroalkyl ether carboxylic acids), have resulted in an unauthorized entry by Defendants upon real property owned by Plaintiff.

1 119. Defendants' unauthorized entry upon Plaintiff's property has resulted in substantial
2 injury, damage, and harm to Plaintiff and constitutes a trespass to real property.

3 120. Plaintiff seeks all legal and equitable relief as allowed by law, including *inter alia* actual
4 damages in an amount to be proven at trial, an injunction to prevent further trespasses, and all
5 costs and expenses of suit and pre- and post-judgment interest.

6
7 **COUNT III**
Trespass to Chattels

8 121. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all other paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set
9 forth here, and further alleges as follows.

10 122. Defendants' operation of the Fayetteville Works facility, and their discharges, emissions,
11 and releases of perfluoroalkyl substances including, but not limited to, PFOA ("C8"), Gen X,
12 Nafion® Byproducts 1 and 2, and other perfluoroalkyl substances known as PFECAs
13 (perfluoroalkyl ether carboxylic acids), have resulted in an unauthorized interference with
14 Plaintiff's possession and use of its water and water system.

15 123. Defendants' unauthorized interference has resulted in substantial injury, damage, and
16 harm to Plaintiff and constitutes a trespass to chattels.

17 124. Plaintiff seeks all legal and equitable relief as allowed by law, including *inter alia* actual
18 damages in an amount to be proven at trial, an injunction to prevent further trespasses, and all
19 costs and expenses of suit and pre- and post-judgment interest.

20
21 **COUNT IV**
Negligence *Per Se*

22 125. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all other paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set
23 forth here, and further alleges as follows.

24 126. Defendants' conduct violates federal and state public safety statutes that are intended to
25 protect human health and the environment, as set forth above.

26 127. Plaintiff is within the class of persons those statutes are intended to protect, and its
27 injuries are of the nature contemplated by the statutes.

1 128. Defendants' negligence *per se* directly and proximately caused Plaintiff injury, damage,
2 and harm as set forth above.

3 129. Plaintiff seeks actual damages in an amount to be proven at trial, all costs and expenses
4 of suit and pre- and post-judgment interest.

5 **COUNT V**
6 **Negligence**

7 130. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all other paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set
8 forth here, and further alleges as follows.

9 131. Defendants owed Plaintiff a duty of reasonable care in in the manufacture, management,
10 use, storage, and handling of their perfluoroalkyl substances including, but not limited to, PFOA
11 ("C8"), Gen X, Nafion® Byproducts 1 and 2, and other perfluoroalkyl substances known as
12 PFECAs (perfluoroalkyl ether carboxylic acids), and in the discharge and remediation of these
13 substances in and around the Fayetteville Works facility.

14 132. Defendants had a duty, in particular, to: (1) identify the potentially harmful chemical
15 byproducts of their operations that were discharged into the air, soil, groundwater, and surface
16 water; (2) investigate and understand the characteristics of the chemical byproducts of their
17 operations before releasing those byproducts into the environment; (3) conduct their operations
18 in a manner that would not unreasonably endanger human health and the environment; (4)
19 investigate and remediate environmental releases that they knew posed a potential risk to human
20 health and the environment; and (5) warn Plaintiff of environmental releases that created a
21 probable risk to human health in the public drinking water supply drawn from the Cape Fear
22 River, due to the persistence and toxicity of these substances and the fact that they are not
23 removed through conventional water treatment processes.

24 133. Defendants failed to exercise ordinary and reasonable care in the manufacture,
25 management, use, storage, and handling of their perfluoroalkyl substances including, but not
26 limited to, PFOA ("C8"), Gen X, Nafion® Byproducts 1 and 2, and other perfluoroalkyl
27
28

substances known as PFECAs (perfluoroalkyl ether carboxylic acids), and in the discharge and remediation of these substances.

134. Defendants' failure to exercise ordinary and reasonable care has directly and proximately caused the groundwater, surface water, soil, and river sediment in and around the Fayetteville Works facility to become contaminated with Defendants' persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic perfluoroalkyl substances.

135. Defendants' failure to exercise ordinary and reasonable care has directly and proximately caused Plaintiff to suffer injury, damage, and harm as set forth above.

136. Plaintiff seeks all legal and equitable relief as allowed by law, including *inter alia* actual damages in an amount to be proven at trial, an injunction to prevent further trespasses, and all costs and expenses of suit and pre- and post-judgment interest.

COUNT VI

Punitive Damages

137. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all other paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth here, and further alleges as follows.

138. Defendants' conduct in secretly releasing their persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic perfluorinated chemicals into the Cape Fear River and contaminating the drinking water source for thousands of North Carolinians, all the while misleading state and Federal regulators and the public, was willful and wanton, in that Defendants' acted with a conscious disregard for and indifference to the rights and safety of others, which Defendants knew or should reasonably have known was reasonably likely to result in injury, damage or harm.

139. Defendants' willful and wanton conduct caused Plaintiff to suffer injury, damages, and harm as set forth above, for which Plaintiff seeks punitive damages as allowed by law.

1 **VI. PRAYER**

2 **WHEREFORE**, the Plaintiff respectfully prays that this Court grant the following relief:

- 3
- 4 1. Entry of judgment for Plaintiff and against Defendants for compensatory and punitive
- 5 damages, including, but not limited to, costs to design, operate and maintain an adequate
- 6 filtration system that will completely remove all PFAS chemicals from its public water supply;
- 7
- 8 2. Entry of such injunctive relief as necessary to abate the nuisance caused by Defendants
- 9 and to prevent continuing injury and damages to Plaintiff; and
- 10 3. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

11 TRIAL BY JURY IS DEMANDED PURSUANT TO FEDERAL RULE OF CIVIL

12 PROCEDURE 38.

13 Respectfully Submitted,

14 Dated this 31st day of October 2017.

/s/ J. Harold Seagle

J. Harold Seagle

SEAGLE LAW

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